



Jennifer Deenik
Souhegan High School, Amherst

After 22 years of teaching, Jennifer Deenik continues to challenge herself both in and out of the classroom. Jenny teaches Living Systems (Biology) to 10th grade students at Souhegan High School. The lesson featured in Ms. Deenik's application expanded on the study of bioethics and genetic engineering. The lesson spurred outstanding student questions and discussion focusing on the ethics of gene therapy, genetically modified foods and stem cell research. The students demonstrated use of higher order thinking skills in understanding and evaluating the varying viewpoints associated with the ethics of genetic engineering.

As a teacher, Jenny participated in a three year research and development initiative studying how Bloom's Taxonomy can be used in the science classroom to increase students' complex thinking. Currently, Jenny is engaged in a new research project focused on the relationship between profound learning (rooted in value, expectations and motivation) and student engagement.

Outside of the classroom, Jenny is involved in a number of school, district, state and national initiatives. Jenny's first love is as a Critical Friends Group coach. She both coaches a CFG at her school, and a national coach for SRI, the School Reform Initiative. Jenny is part of her district's three-year Teacher Leader Effectiveness committee developing standards and an evaluation program for teachers and leaders. Jenny was recently selected to be a Practitioner Assessment Coach as part of the State of New Hampshire's Performance Assessment Network.

Jennifer attended the University of NH-Durham where she received a BS degree in Natural Resources and later went back to get her Master's degree concentrating in Life and Secondary Education.